A message from Fire Chief Gary E. Curmode, CFO/EFO

The personnel of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1 continued to raise the bar of excellence during 2008. June 2008 saw the opening of Station No. 32 and the district’s administrative offices near 77th Street North and I-135 in Park City. This, the second of a five-station relocation program, will increase response efficiency and lower fire insurance ISO ratings for our district’s customers. The Station Review Committee was headed by Deputy Fire Chief Rick A. Brazill who monitored the construction progress daily. I would like to thank all committee members for their efforts and dedication in completing this project. This station greatly improves services to the areas near Park City, Kechi, and the north/northeast quadrant of the county. Additionally, Station 32 responds on any structure fires in a 310 square-mile area—half of the district’s 620 square miles and 85,000 citizens.

Division Chief Walter Rooney became the first Sedgwick County fire officer to achieve the Fire Plans Examiner certification from the International Code Council. During 2008 the district also had 10 firefighters attend supervisory training at the Center for Management Development at Wichita State University. This is a rigorous course of three-hour sessions lasting 11 weeks that will help prepare a firefighter for the initial supervisory level of lieutenant. Captains David Edwards and Tavis Leake, along with Division Chief Doug Williams, were recognized for completing the complex process of Chief Fire Officer designation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Only about 550 fire officers in the United States have attained this certification. Captain Don Paget and Division Chief Alfred Pressnell also achieved Chief Medical Officer Designation as participants in CPSE’s beta launch of this program. All of these officers are utilizing the district’s Career Professional Development Program.

A formal recruit academy of six firefighters graduated from the district’s training academy in 2008 and the district had 12 personnel of various ranks attend the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Three of our employees retired from service in 2008. The district’s fifth-annual compliance report to the Commission for Public Safety Excellence was approved in 2008. In May, an Accreditation Site Review Team evaluated the district for four days as part of the five-year accreditation period renewal process. The team recommended reaccreditation, and the commission approved this in August 2008 at the Fire/Rescue International conference in Denver, Colorado. This review included 10 categories covering 77 core competencies and more than 250 specific indicators. Thanks to the excellent accreditation committee, staff, and members of the district for seeing this through to fruition.

Our first youth Fire Camp was an excellent success and Captain Tavis Leake has scheduled our next camp for May 9, 2009. Fire Camp is a fun, exciting day of learning about the job of a firefighter. Activities includes first aid, rescue practices, firefighting, and physical fitness. Fire Camp challenges attendees to reach within themselves, develop teamwork, and make new friends.

The secret to our success of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1 is our employees—they make it happen! My sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to them, the Board of County Commissioners, the county manager and his staff, and our citizens.
The mission of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1 is to serve the public by protecting life and property, minimizing the impact of fire, and rapidly responding to medical emergencies, potential disasters, or uncontrolled events that adversely affect the community and environment.
The year 2008 saw the completion of several major projects for the OPERATIONS DIVISION of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1.

The fire station relocation plan, first adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2005, saw its first major realization in 2008 with the opening of new fire stations 32 and 33 in Park City and Maize, respectively. The Maize station houses five firefighters and three pieces of apparatus. The new Park City station houses the new district administration offices, the district’s Hazardous Materials Team, and is a division headquarters station. Six firefighters and five pieces of apparatus are assigned there. Steps to relocate Station 35 from 247th Street West and Kellogg to Goddard, and to build a ninth station (Station 39) in southwest Sedgwick County, are currently underway.

The district’s fifth new-hire recruit academy took place in February and March of 2008 and brought seven new firefighters into our ranks. A district-wide training playbook came about in 2008 with the development of standardized Search and Rescue and Rapid Intervention training. All district front-line personnel attended electric live-wire safety training delivered by Westar Energy. A Hazardous Materials Operations Level refresher course and wildland fire training were delivered to all front-line personnel this year as well.

Evaluation of current equipment and the specification of new equipment both occurred in 2008. A compressed air foam system, currently in use on Squad 35, underwent extensive testing for possible inclusion on new equipment purchased by the district. Specifications were completed on two new engine/tender units — one to replace current Engine 31, and a second to be housed at new Station 39.

The FIRE MAINTENANCE DIVISION continued to operate from the Sedgwick County Fleet Management facility at 1015 West Stillwell during 2008. During 2008 all front-line equipment was on a four-month preventive maintenance inspection and service cycle. In addition, all staff vehicles were on a 4000-mile preventive maintenance and inspection cycle. All reserve equipment is scheduled for a preventive maintenance and inspection cycle every six months.

Throughout the year, fire mechanics created 325 work orders that included 201 in-station repairs, 161 preventive maintenance inspections, and three vendor warranties. To support these work orders, $32,641.39 worth of stocked parts and $73,020.24 of non-stocked parts were issued. Repairs not feasible for in-shop technicians were sublet to outside vendors at a cost of $40,051.41.

**RESPONSE CAPABILITIES**

Eight fire stations staffed 24 hours a day  
EMT emergency medical first responder  
Firefighter I and II certified  
Hazardous materials team  
Technical rescue team  
Carbon monoxide response program  
Motorist assist program  
Senior management response team  
Arson task force  
Regional HazMat response team  
Kansas Task Force Five technical rescue team

**SCFD NO. 1 PERSONNEL**

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<thead>
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The **TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM** is a specialized group of firefighters that responds to emergency calls involving confined spaces, high-angle, swift-water, trench cave-ins, building collapses, and SCUBA rescues. The team responds jointly with its counterpart from the Wichita Fire Department.

For the second consecutive year, several team members participated in a six-day technician-level swift-water rescue class on the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado. The course included training in boat operations, low-head dam rescues, and night rescue operations. The team was able to utilize this training when major flooding swept through west Wichita and parts of Sedgwick County in September.

A federal grant of $440,000 allocated for training and equipment was awarded to Kansas Task Force 5 this year. KTFS is a regional response rescue team through which SCFD No. 1 joins forces with rescue teams from the Newton, Winfield, Wichita, and Hutchinson Fire Departments for structural collapse and confined space emergencies requiring a large-scale response.

The team continued to progress towards its training goals in 2008 with additional certifications of Swift-Water Technicians, Certified Rescue Divers, and Structural Collapse Technicians. Nearly 80 percent of the team’s members hold at least two of these certifications.

### MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SITES IN THE DISTRICT

- Air Capitol Delivery
- Air Products
- Alef’s Harley Davidson
- Boeing Company
- Buckley Industries
- Carlson Products
- Cessna Aircraft Company
- Coleman Company
- DeBruce Grain
- Dillons Stores
- The Hayes Company
- Kansas Golf and Turf
- Kice Industries
- Norland Plastics
- Hawker-Beechcraft
- Roberts Trucking
- Spirit AeroSystems
- Thayer Aerospace
- T.W. Metals
- United Warehouse
- Vulcan Chemicals
- Waste Connections
- Westar Energy
- Wickham Glass

### CITIES LOCATED IN SCFD NO. 1

- Andale
- Bel Aire
- Bentley
- Furley
- Garden Plain
- Goddard
- Haysville
- Kechi
- Maize
- Park City
- Peck
- Viola
SCFD No. 1 inaugurates annual Fire Camp for middle-school youth

The HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM is part of a larger local task force comprised of members from Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1, the Wichita Fire Department, Sedgwick County Emergency Management, and the Sedgwick County Health Department. Personnel from all four agencies may respond in the event of a large-scale incident. Currently the HazMat Task Force operates under four levels of response known as incident leveling. Depending on the severity of the alarm, anywhere from a single unit up to 10 units may be dispatched on an alarm.

Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1 also serves as part of the Kansas State Fire Marshal’s Office Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team. The team’s primary responsibility is to assist in South Central Kansas counties; however, the team may work throughout the state.

During 2008, the HazMat Task Force instituted a new style of local team training. Four quarterly sessions were provided for each of three shifts, ensuring at least 30 hours of continuing education for each member. Radiological training and HazMat technician review were two of the sessions offered. Five district team members attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Team members also trained during the year with the Kansas National Guard’s 73rd Civil Support Team. Many of our local team members assist with teaching WMD/HazMat courses from sampling to Technician-Level training for first responders throughout the state. SCFD No. 1 team members also delivered an Operations Level refresher for our own personnel this year.

The MEDICAL/SAFETY-TRAINING DIVISION responded to 58 percent of the emergency calls made by SCFD No. 1 personnel in 2008. To support them in this endeavor, the Safety-Training Division provided approximately 1,900 clock hours of medical continuing education and training in 2008. This coursework included refreshers in the areas of pediatric prehospital care, burn emergency, respiratory emergency, and pulse oximetry skills.

Last year saw the development of a county-wide credentialing process for all emergency personnel certified as EMTs and Paramedics. To help provide the best possible patient care, a uniform credentialing process ensures that all response personnel rendering medical assistance are trained and tested to a uniform standard established by the medical director. Thirty district personnel were credentialed in 2008. Following this initial credentialing, all emergency responders will be recredentialed on a four-year cycle.

Other district-wide training conducted in 2008 included rapid intervention (downed firefighter), water shuttle, wildland firefighting, HazMat victim rescue, and search-and-rescue training. Regular training continues with other area emergency response agencies, thus strengthening all aspects of emergency responses in Sedgwick County.

The Safety Division investigates any accident involving district personnel and property. This division also maintains a health committee, a safety committee and an accident review board. The district is currently developing a work-based physical evaluation to assess individuals’ abilities for safely performing job-related tasks and assess overall fitness levels. As part of the district’s peer fitness program, peer fitness trainers are developing both group and individual workout plans.

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Captain Don Paget (far left) and Chief Alfred Pressnell received Chief Medical Officer designation in 2008.
The **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION** consists of five employees who perform building inspection, plan review, public education, fire investigation, and code enforcement duties.

In 2008, the division conducted 66 fire investigations, of which 38 were structure fires. Twelve confirmed arson fires were investigated throughout the year with five arrests in those cases being made by district investigators. The district is pleased to report there were no civilian fire fatalities in 2008.

The division’s Inspection Section, which also includes fire company officers, performed 1,512 fire inspections on commercial buildings within the district. The Inspection Section currently has three certified inspectors through the International Code Council, and one inspector certified as a Fire Protection Specialist through the National Fire Protection Association.

The Plan Review Section reviewed 118 sets of commercial construction plans representing $158,511,951 of commercial building projects in 2008. These reviews were completed with an average review time of 7.81 working days — an improvement of nearly a full day over 2007. This year marked the first time the district saw commercial construction growth top $100 million.

To help support and improve the mission of the Section, Chief Walter Rooney earned a prestigious double-certification in building-plan review from the ICC and the NFPA in 2008.

The Public Education Section’s mission is to create a more positive change in attitudes toward fire and life safety behaviors and inform the public of methods to keep fires from occurring. Fire Prevention education is provided through ongoing education programs and public awareness campaigns that help people make informed decisions regarding safety. In 2008, educational programs were delivered to 33,296 children and 18,757 adults. The section continues its strong commitment to the Fire and Burn Safety Alliance of South Central Kansas, Inc. to reach our high-risk audiences, including juvenile fire setters. Twenty-two youth fire setters and their families were assisted with assessment and intervention in 2008.

The Adopt-A-School Program continues to provide safety education and mentoring to local schools. The annual Fifth-Grade Fire Prevention Adventure at the Sedgwick County Zoo saw record crowds this year with 2,350 students attending.

Two new initiatives were introduced by the Public Education Section in 2008. These included the district’s first annual Fire Camp for middle school students and the nine-member SCFD Fire Clown program. Fire Camp is a full-day outing for students interested in a public safety profession. Students rotate through a series of hands-on activities that give them real-life experiences similar to those of a firefighter. The SCFD clown program is a way for district personnel to assist the Public Education Section by delivering a fire prevention and safety message through authorized “clowning around” at schools, hospitals, and community events.

In 2008 Chief Walter Rooney became double certified in building plan review.
ACCREDITATION

The complex and rigorous process of SCFD No.1’s reaccreditation began in 2008. Overseen by Accreditation Manager Bryan Ellis and a team of district personnel appointed by Chief Curmode, the team performed some significant accomplishments during the first half of 2008, namely, the creation of a new Risk Hazard Analysis Plan and a revised Standards of Cover Document. The result of this effort was reaccreditation of SCFD No. 1 following a unanimous recommendation by the CPSE site team in May 2008. This provides the district with accredited status through 2013. SCFD No. 1 is one of only 121 accredited fire departments worldwide.

In response to one of the recommendations of the accrediting team, the business plan, the strategic plan, and the annual goals and objectives were formed into one comprehensive planning instrument. Specific responsibilities outlined in this plan have been assigned to senior staff with milestones for completion. Progress toward goal attainment will be tracked by Microsoft’s project management software. The accreditation team is currently preparing the district’s first-annual compliance report that responds to specific and strategic recommendations outlined by the inspection team. The first ACR will be submitted in June 2009.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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316-660-3474 fax

scfd@sedgwick.gov
www.sedgwickcounty.org

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Station 32  501 East 53rd Street North
Station 33  10625 West 53rd Street North
Station 34  3914 West 71st Street South
Station 35  651 South 247th Street West
Station 36  6400 South Rock Road
Station 37  4343 North Woodlawn Boulevard
Station 38  1010 North 143rd Street East

Photography and production by Craig Hacker, craig@craighacker.com.
Design and layout by Dave Webb, davewebb@ucom.net.

Officials of McConnell Air Force Base tour Sedgwick County’s new state-of-the-art Emergency Operations and 911 Dispatch Center (left). SCFD No. 1 continues to work closely with neighboring public safety agencies.

Station 33 in the city of Maize opened in January 2008 (below). It houses three apparatus and five firefighters, improving service in northwestern Sedgwick County.

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ADM

Captain Bryan Ellis led the district’s reaccreditation effort. In August 2008, district representatives accepted the official reaccreditation designation in Denver (left).

Retirees from the district in 2008 were Lieutenant Steve Hillman (top left), 25 years of service; Captain Steve McMillen (top right), 26 years; Chief Ron Reavis (bottom left), 32 years; and Chief Rick Williams (bottom right), 32 years.